

Message Text

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SUBJ: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO MSAS: MEETING OF GROUP OF EIGHT

REF: USUN 3218

1. AS REPORTED REF TEL, DELL OF SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED THIRD DRAFT OF THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH MIGHT BE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE SEPTEMBER 27 MINISTERIAL MEETING. TEXT OF DRAFT QUOTED BELOW REFLECTS MINOR CHANGES SUGGESTED AT SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING.

2. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE THIRD DRAFT WOULD BE APPRECIATED AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GROUP OF EIGHT WILL MEET ONCE AGAIN PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 27.

3. QUOTE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE BY MINISTERS ATTENDING THE MEETING OF 27 SEPTEMBER 1974

1. MINISTERS FROM THE COUNTRIES LISTED AT THE END OF THIS COMMUNIQUE ATTENDED A MEETING CONVENED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ON 27 SEPTEMBER 1974. THE INSTITUTIONS LISTED BELOW WERE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING
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BY OBSERVERS.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CONSIDER THE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS, BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL, TO THE EMERGENCY OPERATION ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN RESOLUTION 3202 (S-VI), TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AN ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS, AND TO INITIATE FURTHER MEASURES ACCORDINGLY. THE MEETING REFLECTED THE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED REGARDING THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE COUNTRIES MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. IT WAS ALSO AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ALLEVIATE THESE PROBLEMS.

3. MINISTERS TOOK NOTE OF THE ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS OF THE COUNTRIES MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE TECHNICAL SERVICES OF THE FAO, IMF, UNCTAD, UNDP AND THE WORLD BANK, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT REPLIES SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO A QUESTIONNAIRE THAT HAD BEEN ADDRESSED TO THEM. THE ASSESSMENT, SET FORTH IN ANNEX I, INDICATES THAT IN ORDER TO MEET THE ESSENTIAL IMPORT NEEDS OF THE MOST SEVERELY AFFECTED COUNTRIES AND AVOID SERIOUS ECONOMIC DISRUPTION OR LOWERING OF LIVING STANDARDS, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TALLING \$4 TO \$5 BILLION WILL BE REQUIRED DURING THE PERIOD 1974-1975 OVER AND ABOVE THE NORMAL LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO THESE COUNTRIES PREVIOUSLY PLANNED.

4. MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ASSESSMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DECISIONS OF GOVERNMENTS BOTH AS REGARDS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED, AND AS REGARDS THE DISTRIBUTION OF THAT ASSISTANCE AMONG RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. THEY CONSIDER THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SHOULD REVISE THE ASSESSMENT AS APPROPRIATE, SO AS TO KEEP IT UP-TO-DATE, AND REPORT ACCORDINGLY TO GOVERNMENTS.

5. MINISTERS TOOK NOTE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SUMMARY OF REPORTS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THAT THEY HAD MADE OR INTENDED TO MAKE AVAILABLE, WHETHER BILATERALLY OR MULTILATERALLY, DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING IN MID-1975. THE SUMMARY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WILL BE FOUND IN ANNEX II, SHOWS THAT ENCOURAGING PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR THE EMERGENCY OPERATION, AND THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS CLEAR THAT CONSIDERABLE FURTHER ASSISTANCE WILL BE NEEDED DURING THE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD. MINISTERS AGREED TO USE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT WHERE COMMITMENTS HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE, EARLY CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY

OF UNDERTAKING SUCH COMMITMENTS AND THAT WHERE PLEDGES HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN, IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE ACCELERATED.

6. MINISTERS AGREED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT THE PATTERN OF DISTRIBUTION OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AMONG RECIPIENT COUNTRIES CORRESPONDS, IN THE AGGREGATE, TO THE PATTERN OF NEEDS. ACCORDINGLY, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS REQUESTED TO FURNISH PERIODIC REPORTS TO GOVERNMENTS ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES AMONG RECIPIENT COUNTRIES TO THEIR RESPECTIVE NEEDS. TO THIS END GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD PROVIDE QUARTERLY REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REGARDING DISBURSEMENTS OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS ALSO ASKED TO CONVENE, FROM TIME TO TIME AS APPROPRIATE, MEETINGS OF ALL CONTRIBUTORS AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF 27 SEPTEMBER 1974 IN ORDER TO REVIEW PROGRESS AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION THAT WOULD FACILITATE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS REQUESTED TO REPORT ON THE CRITERIA TO BE EMPLOYED IN ALLOCATING ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT THAT THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FALL SHORT OF ASSESSED REQUIREMENTS.

7. MINISTERS RECOGNIZED THAT THE BULK OF THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED WOULD FLOW ALONG BILATERAL CHANNELS AND THAT FOR MANY COUNTRIES THIS FORM OF ASSISTANCE IS TRADITIONAL. THEY WELCOMED THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ALREADY GIVEN ON A BILATERAL BASIS BY A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE OF THIS TYPE. AT THE SAME TIME, MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EMERGENCY OPERATION WOULD BE ENHANCED IF A CERTAIN VOLUME OF RESOURCES WERE CHANNELLED THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS. SUCH RESOURCES COULD BE DEPLOYED FLEXIBLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3202 (S-VI) AND COULD BE USED TO BALANCE ANY DEFICIENCIES IN THE OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES AMONG RECIPIENT COUNTRIES THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE SEPARATE DECISIONS OF THE MANY BILATERAL DONORS.

8. MINISTERS TOOK NOTE WITH SATISFACTION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INTENTIONS AND OF CONTRIBUTIONS ALREADY MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALGERIA, ICELAND AND VENEZUELA IN THIS REGARD, AS SUMMARIZED IN ANNEX III, AND UNDERTOOK TO REVIEW THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS BOTH BY INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND BY OTHER COUNTRIES. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT ANY SUCH ACTION UNDER THE EMERGENCY OPERATION WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE QUESTION OF LONGER TERM ARRANGEMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. UNQUOTE

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